

Message Text

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SUBJ: MILITARY TEAM VISIT: INDONESIAN EQUIPMENT PRIORITIES

1. IN MY AUGUST 25 MEETING WITH DEFENSE MINISTER PANGGABEAN, I URGED THAT PRIOR TO VISIT OF MILITARY TEAM TO WASHINGTON WE BE PROVIDED WITH DETAILS ON TYPES OF EQUIPMENT TEAM WOULD WISH TO DISCUSS. GENERAL PANGGABEAN AND GENERAL HASNAN HABIB, WHO WAS ALSO PRESENT, RESPONDED THAT LIST WOULD FOCUS ON CREATION OF SECURITY BELT TO PREVENT INFILTRATION AND SUBVERSION VIA NORTHERN APPROACHES TO INDONESIA, PARTICULARLY ALONG EAST SUMATRA, NATUNAS, AND WEST KALIMANTAN AREAS. PRIORITIES WOULD THUS BE (A) EQUIPMENT FOR BOTH ELECTRONIC AND PHYSICAL SURVEILLANCE, TO INCLUDE AIRCRAFT AND NAVAL VESSELS, (B) TRANSPORT, BOTH AIR AND SEA, TO PERMIT SPEEDY DEPLOYMENT OF INDONESIAN FORCES WHERE NEEDED TO COUNTERACT HOSTILE ACTS, (C) ITEMS FOR LIMITED CONVENTIONAL FIRE SUPPORT AND (D) COMMUNICATIONS EQUIPMENT FOR IMPROVED COMMAND AND CONTROL.

2. BOTH PANGGABEAN AND HASNAN HABIB SAID THEY HOPED THAT MOST IMMEDIATE INDONESIAN NEEDS COULD BE MET FROM EXCESS ITEMS ALREADY IN US INVENTORY, EITHER RECOVERED EQUIPMENT FROM INDOCHINA OR OTHER DOD STOCKS. THEY EXPRESSED

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OPINION THAT THIS WOULD PERMIT FASTER RESPONSE, FREE OF

UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING CONGRESSIONAL FUNDING. GENERAL HASNAN HABIB COMMENTED THAT INDONESIANS FOUND IT DIFFICULT TO DRAW UP REALISTIC LIST OF REQUIREMENTS BECAUSE OF UNCERTAINTIES ABOUT AMOUNT AND TYPES OF EXCESS EQUIPMENT AVAILABLE AND ABOUT EXTENT OF ASSISTANCE US MIGHT BE ABLE TO PROVIDE, GIVEN CONGRESSIONAL CONTROLS.

3. I SAID THAT I WOULD INFORM WASHINGTON OF INDONESIAN PRIORITIES AND THAT THESE WOULD BE HELPFUL IN INSURING THAT DOD OFFICIALS WOULD BE PREPARED FOR USEFUL EXCHANGES WITH INDONESIAN TEAM WHEN IT ARRIVED IN WASHINGTON. HOWEVER, IT WOULD STILL BE DESIRABLE TO HAVE ADDITIONAL DETAILS IF INDONESIAN COULD PROVIDE THEM IN ADVANCE. I SUGGESTED THAT RATHER THAN FOR THE INDONESIANS TO CONCERN THEMSELVES OVERLY MUCH WITH POSSIBLE USG SOURCES OF SUPPLY--WHETHER SURPLUS OR REGULAR MAP OR FMS--BEST APPROACH WOULD BE TO FURNISH AS MUCH DATA ABOUT INDONESIAN NEEDS AS POSSIBLE AND ALLOW DOD TO RESPOND ON BASIS OF FULL RANGE OF SOURCES AVAILABLE.

4. AT SAME TIME I CAUTIONED BOTH PANGGABEAN AND HASNAN HABIB NOT TO EXPECT TOO MUCH FROM SURPLUS EQUIPMENT OUT OF INDOCHINA, INDICATING THAT IT MIGHT NOT BE EITHER AS PLENTIFUL AS EXPECTED OR IN FULLY SATISFACTORY CONDITION. I STRESSED ALSO THAT, DESPITE EFFORTS OF EXECUTIVE BRANCH TO INCREASE AID LEVELS, LEGISLATIVE LIMITATIONS WOULD STILL APPLY TO OUR RESPONSE.

5. COMMENT: WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK ADDITIONAL DATA FROM INDONESIANS ON THEIR SHOPPING LIST AND WILL FORWARD IT IF AND WHEN IT BECOMES AVAILABLE. NEWSOM

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